



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2006-34

Friday, March 3, 2006

CONTACT: Joseph Donovan, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

**Burmaster praises successful efforts of stakeholders
in advancing special education legislation**

Recommendations of state superintendent's stakeholder group unanimously pass both houses of Legislature

MADISON—Legislation advancing special education will soon be on its way to Gov. Jim Doyle's desk thanks to the efforts of a broad-based stakeholder group appointed by State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. The stakeholder group, with statewide representation by parents, educators, state agencies, and advocates, worked hard to improve and align Wisconsin special education law with changes in federal law through reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004).

"Wisconsin citizens came together through our stakeholder group to improve and align Wisconsin's special education laws with federal IDEA 2004. Each stakeholder demonstrated again and again their commitment to working together and to preserving the positive environment for schools and parents we have worked so hard to establish and support in Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin is a leader in service to students with disabilities, passing the first comprehensive special education law in the nation in 1973. This new legislation continues a process begun in 1998 of streamlining our state special education requirements and improving education for our students with special educational needs.

"In Wisconsin, we believe in and take seriously our responsibility to educate all children, including those with disabilities, as we work to ensure a quality education for every child through our New Wisconsin Promise. Students, parents, and teachers work in partnership to bring success in schools one child at a time. I thank the Legislature for unanimous, bipartisan support in passing this legislation quickly."

###